

Page 1, line ~~10~~

replace " _____, (Attorney Docket No. 17828.708)" with --
08/824,866--.

Page 1, lines 12-~~13~~

replace " _____, (Attorney Docket No. 17828.709)" with --
08/824,865--.

Page 1, lines 14-~~15~~

replace " _____, (Attorney Docket No. 17828.708)" with --
08/845,734--.

Page 1, line 27

replace "alterative" with --alternative--.

Page 4, line 10

replace "axio-lateral" with --axio-laterally--.

Page 16, line 19

after "way" insert --to--.

Page 17, ~~line~~ 11

replace "Reenforcement" with --reenforcement--.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- a'
1. (Amended) A stent in a non-expanded state, comprising:
a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the first expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts at a distal end of the first expansion strut pair, a plurality of the first expansion strut pair forming a first expansion column;

a'
 cml.

a second expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the second expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts of the second expansion strut pair at a proximal end of the second expansion strut pair, a plurality of the second expansion strut pair forming a second expansion column;

a first connecting strut including a first connecting strut proximal section, a first connecting strut distal section and a first connecting strut intermediate section, the first connecting strut proximal section being coupled to the distal end of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the first connecting strut distal section being coupled to the proximal end of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion column, a plurality of the first connecting strut forming a first connecting strut column that couples the first expansion column to the second expansion column, [wherein a length of the first connecting strut proximal section is equal to a length of the first connecting strut distal section, and a length of] the first connecting strut intermediate section [is] being non-parallel to [greater than the length of] the first connecting strut proximal and distal sections, wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.

a²

2/3. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein a spacing distance between the first expansion [column] strut pair and an adjacent first expansion [column] strut pair in the first expansion column are the same.

3/4. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein a spacing distance between the second [column] expansion strut pair and an adjacent second [column] expansion strut pair in the second expansion column are different.

4 5. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein a spacing distance between the first expansion [column] strut pair and an adjacent first expansion [column] strut pair in the first expansion column, and a spacing distance between the second [column] expansion strut pair and an adjacent second [column] expansion strut pair in the second expansion column are the same.

5 6. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein a spacing distance between the first expansion [column] strut pair and an adjacent first expansion [column] strut pair in the first expansion column, and a spacing distance between the second [column] expansion strut pair and an adjacent second [column] expansion strut pair in the second expansion column are different.

23 24. (Amended) A stent in a non-expanded state, comprising:
a first expansion column formed of a plurality of first expansion column strut pairs, a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut adjacent to a second expansion strut and a first joining strut that couples the first and second expansion struts at a proximal end of the first expansion strut pair, a second expansion strut pair including a third expansion strut adjacent to the second expansion strut and a second joining strut that couples the second and third expansion struts at a distal end of the second expansion strut pair, a third expansion strut pair including a fourth expansion strut adjacent to the third expansion strut and a third joining strut that couples the third and fourth expansion struts at a proximal end of the third expansion strut pair, a fourth expansion strut pair including a fifth expansion strut adjacent to the fourth expansion strut and a fourth joining strut that couples the fourth and fifth expansion struts at a distal end of the fourth expansion strut pair, a first expansion strut pair first corner formed where the first joining strut is coupled to the first expansion strut, and a first expansion strut pair second corner formed where the first joining strut is coupled

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to the second expansion strut, and a second expansion strut pair first corner formed where the second joining strut is coupled to the second expansion strut, and a second expansion strut pair second corner formed where the second joining strut is coupled to the third expansion strut, and a third expansion strut pair first corner formed where the third joining strut is coupled to the third expansion strut, and a third expansion strut pair second corner formed where the third joining strut is coupled to the fourth expansion strut, and a fourth expansion strut pair first corner formed where the fourth joining strut is coupled to the fourth expansion strut, and a fourth expansion strut pair second corner formed where the fourth joining strut is coupled to the fifth expansion strut;

a second expansion column formed of a plurality of second expansion column strut pairs, a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut adjacent to a second expansion strut and a first joining strut that couples the first and second expansion struts at a proximal end of the first expansion strut pair, a second expansion strut pair including a third expansion strut adjacent to the second expansion strut and a second joining strut that couples the second and third expansion struts at a distal end of the second expansion strut pair, a third expansion strut pair including a fourth expansion strut adjacent to the third expansion strut and a third joining strut that couples the third and fourth expansion struts at a proximal end of the third expansion strut pair, a fourth expansion strut pair including a fifth expansion strut adjacent to the fourth expansion strut and a fourth joining strut that couples the fourth and fifth expansion struts at a distal end of the fourth expansion strut pair, a first expansion strut pair first corner formed where the first joining strut is coupled to the first expansion strut, and a first expansion strut pair second corner formed where the first joining strut is coupled to the second expansion strut, and a second expansion strut pair first corner formed where the second joining strut is coupled to the second expansion strut, and a second expansion strut pair second corner formed where the second joining

strut is coupled to the third expansion strut, and a third expansion strut pair first corner formed where the third joining strut is coupled to the third expansion strut, and a third expansion strut pair second corner formed where the third joining strut is coupled to the fourth expansion strut, and a fourth expansion strut pair first corner formed where the fourth joining strut is coupled to the fourth expansion strut, and a fourth expansion strut pair second corner formed where the fourth joining strut is coupled to the fifth expansion strut; and

a first connecting strut column formed of a plurality of first connecting struts, each connecting strut of the first connecting strut column including a connecting strut proximal section, a connecting strut distal section and a connecting strut intermediate section, a first connecting strut proximal section is coupled to the joining strut of the second expansion strut pair of the first expansion strut column, and a first connecting strut distal section is coupled to the joining strut of the first expansion strut pair of the second expansion strut column, and a second connecting strut proximal section is coupled to the joining strut of the fourth expansion strut pair of the first expansion strut column, and a second connecting strut distal section is coupled to the joining strut of the third expansion strut pair of the second expansion strut column, [wherein a length of the connecting strut proximal section is the same as a length of the connecting strut distal section and the connecting strut intermediate section has a length that is greater than the lengths of the connecting strut distal and proximal sections], the first connecting strut intermediate section being non-parallel to the first connecting strut proximal and distal sections, wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.